



2171 #5/4

Our Docket No.: B588-017

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Kunihiro Yamamoto et al.
Serial No. : 09/818,391
For : IMAGE RETRIEVAL METHOD AND APPARATUS
Filed : March 27, 2001
Art Unit : 2171
Examiner : Unassigned

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JUL 05 2001
Group 2100

Asst. Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Specification

Rewrite the paragraph starting at page 7, line 7 and ending at page 7, line 9 as follows:

Fig. 8 is a flowchart useful in describing a procedure for selecting a similar image according to this embodiment;

Rewrite the paragraph starting at page 7, line 21 and ending at page 7, line 23 as follows:

A preferred embodiment of the present invention will now be described in detail in accordance with the accompanying drawings.

Rewrite the paragraph starting at page 13, line 11 and ending at page 13, line 19 as follows:

Next, at step S54, the average value of the R values of one area (i, j) in an image represented by the image drawn at the step S161 is substituted for the kth element d(k) of

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